

COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Recruiting Campaign for the National Armed Forces NO. OF PAGES 1

25X PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X DATE OF
INFO. [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

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1. In mid-September 1952, a conference attended by all the chiefs of agricultural enterprises and farmers' cooperatives in addition to Freier Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (FDGB) functionaries of individual villages was held at the FDGB headquarters in Haldensleben. [REDACTED]

The address was given by SED functionary Karl Fiedler, chief of the Kreis recruit ne commission. Fiedler stated that it was his mission to recruit volunteers for the National Armed Forces. Males from 18 to 30 years old would be admitted, while persons beyond that age would have to be specialists. In the navy, all personnel ranking upward of the grade of mate would be considered as specialists; in the air force, this classification would apply to pilots trained in blind flying; and in the signal corps to personnel familiar with radar technics. The applicants would not be offered less pay than what they were earning in civilian employment. Former officers were not subject to any restrictions. Candidates of the border police would have to be below 30 years old. Applicants for employment at Kreis police headquarters would not be accepted if they were more than 45 years old. Persons, who had been in Western PW captivity after 1 January 1946 or whose next to kin live in Western Germany would not be accepted as candidates for the National Armed Forces.

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2. [REDACTED] recruiting commissions had allegedly been established in all Kreise in East Germany. These recruiting commissions must be considered as the precursors of draft boards. The recruiting commission of Kreis Haldensleben has its headquarters at the house of the savings bank on Ernst Thaelmann Strasse. Each Kreis is assigned an undetermined monthly quota of recruitings, which are effected through the cooperation of political organizations, particularly the FDJ (Freie Deutsche Jugend). Each candidate will be screened by the Kreis recruiting commission on the basis of a very detailed questionnaire regarding his person, relatives and his political and military background. Through the recruiting commission the candidate will be assigned to a specific branch of service within the National Armed Forces, to the border police or to a Kreis police headquarters. As far as possible local police are to be replaced by party functionaries who will be employed as volunteers on a part time basis. So far the recruiting campaign for the National Armed Forces has had very little success.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. The information concerning the establishment of Kreis recruiting commissions as precursors of draft boards agrees with previous reports [REDACTED]

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